

Anna J. Thomas, MPH
Public Health Director



Chief Daniel Goonan
Fire Chief and Emergency Management
Director

CITY OF MANCHESTER
Health Department
Fire Department

For Immediate Release

July 9, 2020

Contacts:	(Health): Phil Alexakos, MPH, REHS	624-6466
	(Fire): Meghan Geoffrion, MSEM	669-2256

Extended Period of Hot Temperatures and High Humidity

The National Weather Service is forecasting an extended period of hot temperatures and high humidity beginning **Thursday July 9 through at least Friday July 10**. A *Heat Advisory* has been issued for today and one is likely on Friday. These conditions may pose a health danger to the public, especially young children and elderly adults. Please pay special attention to the following information.

People tend to suffer heat-related illness when the body's temperature control system is overloaded. Usually, the body cools itself by sweating, but in some cases sweating is not enough. When that happens, a person's body temperature rises rapidly. Very high body temperatures can damage the brain and other vital organs.

Several factors affect the body's ability to cool itself during extremely hot weather. When the humidity is high, sweat will not evaporate as quickly, preventing the body from releasing heat quickly. Other conditions that adversely affect temperature regulation include old age, obesity, fever, dehydration, heart disease, poor circulation, sunburn, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Understanding the inherent danger of extreme heat, health and emergency management officials are making the following recommendations:

DRINK PLENTY OF FLUIDS

Increase how much you drink regardless of your activity level. During heavy exercise in a hot environment, drink 2-4 glasses (i.e. 16-32 ounces) of cool fluid each hour. Plain water is the best fluid to drink since it is the easiest for your body to absorb. **Don't wait** until you're thirsty to drink more fluids. Remind others to drink enough water.

Avoid drinking very cold beverages (they can cause stomach cramps) and avoid alcoholic and caffeinated beverages (they make you lose more fluid). During hot weather, you will need to drink more liquid than your thirst indicates. This is especially true for persons over the age of 65.

(NOTE: If your doctor has prescribed a fluid-restricted diet or diuretics, you need to ask your doctor how much you should drink.)

1528 Elm Street • Manchester, New Hampshire 03101 • (603) 624-6466
Administrative Fax: (603) 624-6584 ~ Community Health Fax: (603) 665-6894
Environmental Health & School Health Fax: (603) 628-6004
E-mail: health@manchesternh.gov • Website: www.manchesternh.gov/health

REPLACE SALT & MINERALS

Heavy sweating removes salt and minerals from the body. These are necessary for you and need to be replaced. The easiest and safest way is to eat a balanced meal and drink fruit juice or a sports beverage. Do not take salt tablets unless directed by your doctor. If you are on a low-salt diet, ask your doctor what to eat or drink, especially before drinking a sports beverage.

WEAR APPROPRIATE CLOTHING & SUNSCREEN

Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing. In the hot sun, a wide-brimmed hat will provide shade and keep the head cool. Use sunscreens that have a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher. Apply the sunscreen 30 minutes before going outdoors and reapply according to package instructions. Sunscreen protects you from sunburn, which can affect your body's ability to cool itself and causes a loss of body fluids.

STAY COOL INDOORS

The best way to beat the heat is to stay in air-conditioned areas. If you do not have an air conditioner, consider visiting a shopping mall for a few hours. ***It is important that all people who are out in public wear a mask or face covering and maintain proper social distancing to protect each other from potential exposure to COVID-19***.

For other recreational ideas and resources, please visit:

<http://www.manchesternh.gov/website/Home/Recreation/tabid/1607/Default.aspx>

Note: Some options may not be available due to COVID-19, please call ahead

While an electric fan may be useful to increase comfort and to draw cool air into your home at night, it should not be your primary cooling device during a heat wave. When the temperature is in the high 90's or above, a fan will NOT prevent heat-related illness. Taking a cool shower or bath **is** also an effective way to cool off.

SCHEDULE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES CAREFULLY

If you must be out in the heat, plan your activities so that you are outdoors before 10:00 a.m. or in the evening after 6:00 p.m. While outdoors, rest frequently in a shady area. Resting periodically will give your body's thermostat a chance to recover. If exertion in the heat makes your heart pound and leaves you gasping for breath, STOP all activity; get into a cool area and rest. Also, you should rest if you become lightheaded, confused, weak or faint.

USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM

When working in the heat, monitor the condition of your co-workers and have someone do the same for you. Heat-induced illness can cause a person to become confused or lose consciousness.

If you are 65 years or older, have a friend or relative call to check on you twice a day during a period of extended heat. If you know any people in this age group, check on them at least twice a day. **Avoid in-person visits unless absolutely necessary and in doing so, please wear a cloth mask and wash your hands**.

Those at greatest risk of heat-related illness include: (1) infants up to 4-years of age; (2) people age 65 or older; (3) people who are overweight; (4) people who overexert during work or exercise; and (5) people who are ill or on certain medications.

USE COMMON SENSE AND STAY INFORMED

Avoid hot foods and heavy meals – they add heat to your body. Do not leave infants or pets in a parked car. Dress infants in cool, loose clothing and make sure they drink enough liquids. Give your pet(s) plenty of fresh water and leave the water in a shady area. NEVER leave a child or pet in a vehicle, not even for a minute!

Stay updated on local weather forecasts so you can plan activities safely when it's hot outside. Check local media outlets for heat advisories and warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Sign up for weather alerts to your phone or email by visiting: <https://www.weather.gov/subscribe> (Note: These are 3rd party Apps and some may not be free)

BE ALERT FOR HEATSTROKE AND HEAT EXHAUSTION

Both of these ailments occur when your body becomes unable to control its temperature; your body's temperature rises quickly, the sweating mechanism fails, and the body is unable to cool down. If emergency treatment is not taken quickly, death or permanent disability can occur. Warning signs of heatstroke and heat exhaustion can include hot dry skin, rapid pulse, throbbing, headache, dizziness, nausea, confusion, paleness, and unconsciousness. **Call 911 should these symptoms occur.**

City SWIMMING LOCATIONS

Some of the City of Manchester's public swimming facilities *are, or soon will be open*. The daily hours of operation are as follows (weather permitting). For the latest updates on the status of these facilities please visit: <https://www.manchesternh.gov/Departments/Parks-and-Recreation>

Facility and Location	Hours of Operation		Comments
Crystal Lake Public Beach -679 Bodwell Rd.	12PM-8PM*		Limited to 250 people
Dupont Splash Pad - 207 Mason St.	Coming SOON!		Coming SOON!

*CRYSTAL LAKE BEACH WILL BE STAFFED WITH CHECKERS AT THE GATE and LIFE GUARDS. WHEN LIFEGUARDS ARE NOT ON DUTY, THE BEACH IS POSTED "SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK".

The three municipal pools and the Splash Pad are fully accessible to persons with disabilities. Hunt Pool is equipped with hydraulic lifts for pool access.

OTHER RESOURCES

To access the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Extreme Heat Media Toolkit, please visit:

<http://www.cdc.gov/extremeheat/index.html>

<https://www.weather.gov/safety/heat>

<https://www.weather.gov/wrn/summer2020-heat-sm>

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